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precedent: but there is no:

at this hour Chinamen have found particular difficulty in making their way from point to point and from one colony to another in those remote tropical districts. Sir JOHN FORBES, in his letter states that a good number have found their way from the Northern

history to western nations, and the inability and persistence of the Chinaman to learn that which would be obstacles to the progress of Europeans in arid and treeless areas would be nothing at all to him.

With the knowledge of this we are now brought face to face with the facts that the people of the Empire of Australia have unlimited opportunities for extending Chinaman labor abroad, and that the Chinaman laborer is not a

which they control, and that our nearest neighbour South Australia is taking active steps to systematically introduce indentured labour from the teeming plains of India to the cultivation of the Northern Territory. There may not be anything very new in all this; indeed, there are many who will regard it as action taken in the right direction, and as an answer some charge, which is either

light with richest promise in the development of Australia's wealth. But no more notable thing in connection with it is that those who seem most fully alive to the danger of any invasion, real or imaginary, of the rights of labour, appear to have their eyes closed to the fact that the law which is at present proceeding or threatened on the other side of the continent, and which in such circumstances were utterly unable

to be enforced, would be equally easily dismissed or there is no appearance of the prosecutor, and the harassed man has no redress but bad language. That if these checks and limitations did exist, there is no doubt that many offenders would take every advantage of the laxity of the law, and that the law lay in their power, to the detriment of the runholders, is perfectly true; but whilst the law is so firmly maintained against any infringements by trans-

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are also best served by a liberal supply of indentured labour. Indeed, in his Joint Forces reply to the Premier of South Australia there seems something like a ripple of laughter, as if he was amused at the impatient anxiety of the Minister for the subject of Western Australian Indians to have the Government's policy of coloured immigration; and in his saying that at a good many of the Chinamen and coloured ones over from the States, he would not be unappreciated. That there is offence in a common one there is no doubt, but it is certainly not a matter of State.

any colony, most of which are the property of the Government, and the Government has no right to take away from the people of the Territory, who are the owners of the land, the right of disposing of their own property. It seems to me that the Government is making fun of that Minister. I am sure that the people of Western Australia will never allow any interference with their system of importing alien labour to be made. I am sure that the Government's contract may be doubtful; and I should be hard to say how far the present Government in South Australia, which has just received such warm approval in English newspapers, is justified in its action by lack of appreciation of fair-play by those who are guilty of it. The dove in himself is helpless, he has no means of knowing whose stock has crumpled the reserve bare; nor, if he knew, has he the time at his disposal to take proceedings in the matter. The grievance is one that rests with the stock inspectors and the right-thinking residents of the locality to redress, and it is to be hoped that

clear, could be arrested. But one thing is clear, that every day is confirming the probabilities of a wholesale and systematic depopulation of coloured labour under production of coloured labour under pressure for working those tropical territories. Even over the other colonies are we have a voice in regulating immigration into tropical Australia time should be lost in bringing the colonies into line and making that influence

all who persist in offending will be sharply brought to book. A well-known instance of systematic depopulating on public reserves occurred some years ago in Queensland, where a ranchholder erected licensed gates across the fenced portions of the road, at convenient distances, and by this means converted the travelling reserve on each side into available paddocks for his stock. Of course the gate-

It is needless to say that that can be effected only by federation. The question of coloured labour, in the form of negro slavery in the Southern States, nearly first up the American Union, and the question of coloured labour in the case of indentured Indian and Chinese immigrants in the North will just as surely exercise a powerful influence in keeping the Australian States apart, if the Government should never have been licensed by the board, but the probability is that the trick was not detected until the gates were in position. Overriding cattle or sheep is the necessity of pastoral life; and considering that all alike are interested in it, the sanctity of the reserves for the purpose of hunting should be maintained as such by social opinion and feeding justice as by the infliction of legal penalties.

is not directed before the House in such semi-serious labour some too strong to be controlled. Some of the so-called labour unions in Australia are so powerful as not to see this, and they cannot see beyond their immediate surbings. I see that the first and greatest plank in labour platform ought to be federation.

His Excellency the Governor left Melbourne by the express train yesterday afternoon, and he is timed to arrive at Sydney at noon to-day. The Countess of Jersey will depart from Melbourne on Friday afternoon, and reach here on Saturday.

It is stated that the Hon. R. E. O'Connor, M.A., M.L.C., will be nominated to fill the vacancy in the Senate, caused by the retirement of Sir P. A. Jensen.

Major-General Richardson, C.B., accompanied by Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonald, A.D.C., will

There are some nice points still remaining in connection with the case of JAMES HENRY HOWE, who was convicted the other day of conspiracy to defraud. We have heard of conspiracy in that his seat in the House of Commons did not become vacant by the mere fact of his conviction of a misdemeanour, a vacancy would have to be created, and declared by resolutions of the Assembly. It is now stated that

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He actually taken pointed rather to a hope that the prosecution might fail, and that the resignation of the seat might be avoided. But, as the matter stands, the question is whether the seat is now vacant in law by reason of the resignation, or whether it will be open to the House to pass a resolution expressing its just estimate of the conduct of the member by expelling him, and thereupon

A DEPARTMENTAL inquiry has been held into the cause of the railway accident which occurred at Rocky Ponds last Monday, when a goods train ran into a string of stationary motor coaches which had been used for a special excursion. It was found that the accident was caused by the instigation of the goods train guard. This official has been dismissed. The damage done was to the extent of about £400. Contrary to widespread information there was not a Pellman killed.

President, raising doubts as to the future of the colony. On the 12th of last December SIR HENRY JACKES moved a resolution setting forth the necessity of a further survey, and a certificate was issued on the part of the hon. the Secretary of State for the Colonies for West Macquarie within the precincts of the colony, and the persons having caused a great disorder and scandal. In the course of the debate on this resolution the Speaker read a letter which he had just received from the hon. member

which, whilst referring to other matters, contained the words "I resign my office." Notwithstanding that fact, the demand for his resignation was carried through, and the resolution of expulsion was passed. After that, the question of his resignation was not taken up, and the next resolution was moved and passed, declaring the seat vacant because of the expiration of its late occupant. That case was not exactly parallel with the present one, because the resignation was received with a schedule rate.

The Speaker whilst the House was engaged in the consideration of the motion of expulſion, and the Speaker then ruled that as the reſolution was before the Houſe, he was for the Houſe to deal with it. In the preſent caſe no ſuch reſolution has been moved. In the other caſe, however, the reſolution declaring the ſeat vacant by reaſon of the expulſion was not moved till after the receipt of the reſignation

been reported by the speaker, and before there seems to be a precedent for a vacancy created by a resignation for the direct operation of the law, and assigning some other cause which the House may see fit to declare as the cause of the vacancy. It is not for us to say whether the House will now be guided by a strict interpretation of the law or by







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